

Serial No.: 09/818,313

Claim Amendments

Please amend claims 1 and 4 as follows:

Claims as Amended

1. (currently amended) A method for operating a multi-chamber fabrication tool comprising:

providing a multi-chamber fabrication tool comprising a series of chambers;

first defining for each chamber within the series of chambers a minimum of one fabrication process to provide a series of fabrication processes corresponding with the series of chambers, wherein at least one fabrication process ~~may be~~ is undertaken within more than one chamber and at least one chamber has defined therein more than one fabrication process including the at least one fabrication process which ~~may be~~ is undertaken within more than one chamber;

then selecting the at least one chamber for processing a substrate while employing the at least one fabrication process which is undertaken within more than one chamber, the at least one chamber selected to optimize utilization of the multi-chamber fabrication tool;

then processing within the multi-chamber fabrication tool

Serial No.: 09/818,313

[[a]] the substrate while employing the at least one fabrication process which ~~may be~~ is undertaken within more than one chamber, wherein a chamber within which is processed the substrate while employing the at least one fabrication process which ~~may be~~ undertaken within more than one chamber is selected such as to optimize utilization of the multi-chamber fabrication tool.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the substrate is employed within a microelectronic fabrication selected from the group consisting of integrated circuit microelectronic fabrications, ceramic substrate microelectronic fabrications, solar cell optoelectronic microelectronic fabrications, sensor image array optoelectronic microelectronic fabrications and display image array optoelectronic microelectronic fabrications.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the series of chambers comprises at least about four chambers.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the series of fabrication processes is selected from the group consisting of vacuum etch processes, vacuum deposition processes and vacuum implantation processes.

5. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising: defining a series of chamber constraints for the series of chambers;

defining a series of process constraints for the series of processes; and

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Serial No.: 09/818,313

defining a series of substrate constraints for the substrate.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the series of chamber constraints, the series of process constraints and the series of substrate constraints is prioritized through use of an algorithm when selecting the chamber within which is processed the substrate.

7. - 12. (canceled)

BEST AVAILABLE COPY